



HISTORY™ has joined with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities to encourage libraries to strengthen their communities' interest in American history by creating themed exhibits and public programming. This is your chance to join a national dialogue about the American past. And your community story is a vital part of that conversation.



AMERICA
The Story of Us



LIBRARY OUTREACH CONTEST

You are invited to create a special exhibit or media project about American history. Prizes will be awarded for the best exhibits. Visit www.history.com/classroom for official rules and information about how to participate. Questions? Email us at america@aetn.com

Prizing:

There will be three prizes awarded for each contest category.

- Grand prize:** \$15,000 (1 exhibit will be chosen as a grand prize winner)
- First prize:** \$5,000 (2 exhibits will be chosen as first prize winners)
- Second prize:** \$1,000 (10 exhibits will be chosen as second prize winners)

Judging Criteria: Relevance to American history (25%); Effectiveness of exhibit (25%); Outreach to constituents (25%); Clarity and thoroughness of submission (25%)

Requirements:

- Open to all libraries, large and small. You **MUST REGISTER** to participate at www.history.com/classroom. Click on the Library Contest section of the site. Contest materials will be sent to registrants
- HISTORY will distribute tent cards and bookmarks or postcards with tune-in information on *America The Story of Us* for use of participating libraries. HISTORY will also provide participating libraries with a DVD copy of the series and related book, while supplies last. Tune-in information could also be included on the library website and mailings (electronic or hard copy)
- Contest submissions must include a submission form and a short (250 words maximum) description of the exhibit and the American history topic covered
- Contest submissions must include photographs or videos of the exhibit you have created (video preferred)
- Exhibit or media project must be created and accessible by **April 30th, 2010**
- Exhibits, media projects and programs may be ongoing, but



outreach to communicate the tune-in information and exhibit plans to communities should be in place by

April 20th, 2010

- Submissions must be postmarked by **June 1st, 2010**
- Any press and supporting letters should be included in submission
- For complete contest rules visit www.history.com/classroom

Suggestions:

- Develop hands-on features for younger visitors including interactive activities
- Incorporate local archives/documents or collection “treasures” into the exhibit
- Involve different constituency groups (a variety of ages and backgrounds)
- Strengthen your exhibit or media project with public programming. Invite a local historian or create a panel of experts to speak about an American history topic of interest to your community. Other ideas include a cooking presentation on traditional American food, a small concert or musical performance, creative performances such as puppet shows or

multimedia presentations

- Outreach to share the exhibit or media project with local schools, historical societies, museums and archives and/or community groups
- Use our press templates or develop your own for local communications. Reach out to your cable company, radio stations, and newspapers
- Tie in materials from “Picturing America,” a National Endowment for the Humanities program in collaboration with the IMLS
- Invite your elected officials to attend the opening of the exhibit or launch of your media project
- Have a camera handy! Take videos and still photos for your submission
- Host an online history quest related to your exhibit with books as prizes
- Looking for additional sources? Visit the Library of Congress online at www.loc.gov

The Institute of Museum and Library Services’ and President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities’ engagement in these contests does not constitute an endorsement of HISTORY™ or any other entity.

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